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December 27, 2001

VIA COURIER

Magalie Roman Salas
Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
236 Massachusetts Avenue, NE
Suite 110
Washington, DC 20002

**Re: CC Docket No. 94-102; Fourth Quarterly Report of Alpine PCS, Inc. and
RFB Cellular, Inc. on TTY-Digital Deployment**

Dear Ms. Salas:

On behalf of Alpine PCS, Inc. ("Alpine") and RFB Cellular, Inc. ("RFB"), I am submitting this fourth quarterly report on the implementation of TTY access to digital wireless systems.

As noted in the report submitted on October 9, 2001, Alpine holds PCS licenses for markets in Michigan and California. In the Michigan markets, it uses Motorola CDMA infrastructure equipment; in California, it uses Lucent CDMA equipment. RFB holds cellular licenses for markets in Michigan and uses Motorola CDMA equipment. As a result, Alpine and RFB are dependent on the implementation of TTY solutions by Motorola and Lucent, including the costs and other terms related to those solutions. Alpine and RFB have previously reported that once the TTY solutions of these equipment manufacturers are commercially available, Alpine and RFB will implement them in their networks.

Since Alpine and RFB's last report they have obtained additional information regarding the commercial availability and financial terms of Motorola and Lucent's solutions. Motorola's solution requires a software and hardware upgrade that would cost the Companies approximately \$395,000 based upon current quotes. It appears that Lucent's upgrades will be comparable, if not more expensive than Motorola's. In light of the fact that these upgrades will cost at least three quarters of a million dollars to implement, the Companies will attempt to negotiate more reasonable terms to provide the TTY solution. Alpine and RFB are small carriers and this

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investment will amount to a substantial cost per customer, a tremendous burden for small companies. In this regard, the Companies note that the Commission's Fourth Report and Order, 15 FCC Rcd 25,216 (2000) sets a December 31, 2001 deadline for digital wireless carriers to have "obtained all software upgrades and equipment necessary to make their systems capable of transmitting 911 calls from TTY devices."¹

Alpine and RFB understand that both Motorola and Lucent will be filing TTY capability status reports through the Wireless TTY Forum, and we direct the Commission to those reports for specific information regarding development and deployment activities. Alpine and RFB will make every effort to implement TTY capability in their markets by the June 30, 2002 deadline, however, the Companies are very concerned about the practical implications and financial impact of implementing the Commission's requirements in light of the costs noted above.

Please contact the undersigned if you require any additional information.

Sincerely,

James F. Ireland

cc: Arthur L. Prest

By Hand Delivery:

Qualex International – Portals II – **Room CY-B402**

Kris Monteith, Chief, Policy Division, Wireless Telecommunications – **Room 3B-103**

Chief, Disabilities Rights Office, Consumer Information Bureau

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¹ Although the Commission's Fourth Report and Order contains the December 31, 2001 deadline, Section 20.18 of the rules does not provide for any such requirement. To the extent that Alpine and RFB have not met this deadline and the Commission considers that a waiver is required, the Companies hereby request a waiver of that requirement. However, it is not clear that any waiver of the rules is required in this instance.